

Message Text

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10

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SR-02 ORM-01 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /085 W

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R 310815Z MAR 75

FM AMCONSUL TABRIZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 113

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USMISSION USUN NY

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL KHORRAMSHAHR

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L TABRIZ 0016

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SREF, IR, IZ

SUBJ: IRAQI KURDISH WAR

SUMMARY: RECENT ALGIERS AGREEMENT APPEARS TO HAVE BROUGHT VIRTUAL
END TO KURDISH WAR. TEN THOUSAND REFUGEES, INCLUDING MANY PISH
MERGA FIGHTERS, ARE FLOODING INTO IRAN. ONLY FEW ARE PRESENTLY
ELECTING RETURN IRAQ. IRAQI RED CRESCENT DELEGATION TRAVELED
MARCH 26 TO MAIN REFUGEE CAMPS BUT FAILED PERSUADE MANY KURDS
RETURN IRAQ. IRANIANS NOT ATTEMPTING FORCE KURDS RETURN IRAQ.
PRESENTLY NO PLANS MOVE REFUGEES OUT OF CAMPS. SOME IRANIAN
OFFICIALS EXPECT MAJOR REFUGEE RETURN MAY OCCUR AFTER SEVERAL
MONTHS IF INITIAL RETURNEES NOT HARMED. KURDS BITTER ABOUT WHAT
THEY REGARD AS IRANIAN SELLOUT BUT SEE NO POSSIBILITY OF CONTIN-
UING WAR. EVERY INDICATION IS THAT IRANIANS ARE UPHOLDING AGREE-
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MENT WITH IRAQ AND EXPECT IT TO LAST. END SUMMARY.

1. MARCH 24-27 TALKED WITH IRANIAN BORDER OFFICIALS IN PROVINCES KURDISTAN, KERMANSHAHAN, AND WEST AZERBAIJAN. GOVERNORS-GENERAL, SAVAK CHIEFS AND RED LION AND RUN REPRESENTATIVES ALL AGREE FEW REFUGEES NOW WILLING RETURN IRAQ. THEIR ESTIMATES INDICATE TOTAL RETURNEES BY APRIL 1 LIKELY FIVE TO TEN THOUSAND. KURDS WORRIED ABOUT TREATMENT SHOULD THEY RETURN. STORRY SURRENDERED KURDS BEING EXECUTED RAWANDUZ WIDELY BELIEVED IN CAMPS AND NOTED BY SAVAK CHIEF KURDISTAN AND RED LION AND SUN DIRECTOR WEST AZERBAIJAN.

2. SAME FEAR RESULTING IN LARGE INFLOW NEW REFUGEES. MOST COMING THROUGH RAWANDUZ-PIRANSHAHR ROUTE WHICH CHOKED WITH TRAFFIC. SAVAK CHIEF REZAIYEK SAYS TEN THOUSAND HAVE ARRIVED LAST THREE WEEKS. RED LION AND SUN DIRECTOR AND DEPUTY ESTIMATE TEN TO FIFTEEN THOUSAND BUT SAY STATISTICS LAGGING BEHIND ARRIVALS. INFLOW CONTINUING HEAVY BUT LIMITED BY FACT ALMOST ALL COMING ON ONE ROAD. WOULD GUESS NEW REFUGEES WILL NUMBER 30,000 BY APRIL 1 FOR TOTAL 160,000 IN IRAN AFTER SUBTRACTING RETURNEES. NEW REFUGEES INCLUDE MANY PISH MERGA FIGHTERS WHO ARE TURNING IN ARMS TO IRANIANS. I SAW MANY SUCH MEN IN CAMP IN KURDISTAN. RED LION AND SUN DIRECTOR SAYS MOST PISH MERGA BEING SENT SOUGH AWAY FROM AREA OF FIGHTING. I SAW SOME 400 BEING MOVED BY MILITARY TRUCK THROUGH KURDISTAN IN DIRECTION KERMANSHAHAN. REST OF NEW ARRIVALS REMAINING WEST AZERBAIJAN.

3. KURDS EXTREMELY BITTER ABOUT SELLOUT. SAVAK CHIEF KURDISTAN SAYS THOSE WHO HAVE RETURNED IRAQ GO CURSING EVERYONE IN IRAN INCLUDING SHAH. RED LION AND SUN DIRECTOR REZAIYEH SAYS "IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO TALK TO THE PEOPLE NOW." SAME FEELING REPORTED BY KURDISH REFUGEE CONTACT FORMERLY MEMBER KDP INFORMATION MINISTRY. NEVERTHELESS KURDS FEEL SITUATION IRAQ SO UNCERTAIN AND DANGEROUS THAT MOST WISH REMAIN IRAN FOR THE PRESENT. IRANIAN OFFICIALS HAVE NO PRESENT PLANS TO FORCE REFUGEES RETURN IRAQ OR MOVE OUT OF CAMPS. SAVAK CHIEF REZAIYEH STATES GOVT HOPES THAT AFTER SEVERAL MONTHS MANY MORE WILL ELECT RETURN IRAQ IF THOSE RETURNING NOW ARE WELL TREATED. HE ADDS THAT HE HAS INFORMATION BARZANI AND CLOSE FOLLOWERS HAVE NO INTENTION OF GOING USA.

4. IRAQI RED CRESCENT DELEGATION TRAVELED TO FOUR MAJOR CAMPS
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MARCH 26 ATTEMPTING PERSUADE REFUGEES RETURN IRAQ. MISSION TOTAL FAILURE IN WEST AZERBAIJAN CAMPS AND SMALL RIOT ERUPTED ONE CAMP WHEN IRAQIS ATTEMPTED TO SPEAK. EVERY INDICATION IS THAT IRANAINS MEAN UPHOLD AGREEMENT AND CLOSE BORDER APRIL 1. MOST IRANIAN TROOPS WITHDRAWN FROM FORWARD POSITIONS TO REGULAR CAMPS. WHILE SOME KURDS MAY CONTINUE HOLD OUT IN HILLS, GENERAL BORDER OPINION IS THAT REAL WAR IS OVER.
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